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SUBJECT: COUNTRY CLEARANCE GRANTED FOR ELIZABETH BUNKER AND CRIST CHENSVOLD

REF: SECSTATE 178295

1. Embassy Bridgetown warmly welcomes and grants country clearance to Elizabeth A. Bunker and Crist Chensvold to travel to St. Lucia from November 5-22, 2006. From St. Lucia, Bunker and Chensvold will travel to Antigua, Dominica, Grenada, St. Kitts and St. Vincent. The purpose of this trip is for an official visit to the Peace Corps/Eastern Caribbean and to interview Peace Corps volunteers for a programming study at PC/Eastern Caribbean, requiring some in-country travel.

2. Post understands that Peace Corps/Eastern Caribbean, based in St. Lucia, will arrange travel and logistical support.

3. Ms. Bunker and Mr. Chensvold are expected to arrive in Castries, Saint Lucia on Sunday, November 5, 2006 on AA 5058 at 4:20pm. They will depart on Wednesday, November 22, 2006 on AA 5123 at 3:20pm.

4. Entry requirements: A valid U.S. passport is required to enter Saint Lucia. No visa is required if your stay is under three months, including those travelers arriving with diplomatic or official passports. For further information, travelers may contact the Embassy of Saint Lucia, 3216 New Mexico Avenue, N. W., Washington, D.C. 20016, telephone 202) 364-6792. A valid U.S. passport is required to enter Antigua. No visa is required for short visits, including those travelers arriving with diplomatic or official passports. A valid U.S. passport is required to enter Dominica. No Visa is required if your stay is under three weeks. American citizens must have a valid passport to travel to Grenada, no visa is required for short stays. No Visa is required if your stay is under three months. A valid U.S. passport is required to enter St. Vincent and the Grenadines. No visa is required; length of stay will be determined by immigration upon arrival.

5. Departure tax for St. Lucia is XCD\$45.00 or \$17.00USD. Departure tax for Antigua is 50.00 xcd (Eastern Caribbean) dollars or \$19USD. Departure tax for St. Kitts is \$17.00USD. Departure tax for St. Vincent is \$50.00 XCD or \$20.00USD. Departure tax for Grenada is 50 XCD or \$20.00USD.

6. The following is general information pertaining to transportation, security, and health considerations throughout the Eastern Caribbean:

Airports and Transportation

Commercial taxis are readily available and reasonably priced at airports throughout the region.

Security

In the Eastern Caribbean, foot travel outside of well-established tourist areas is not generally recommended, especially at night. Be vigilant when using public telephones or ATM machines near roadsides or quiet areas. As in many U.S. metropolitan areas, wearing expensive jewelry, carrying expensive objects, or carrying large

amounts of cash should be avoided. Visitors should also safeguard valuables while at the beach. While hotels are generally safe, many visitors have experienced loss of unattended items. Hotel burglaries are not uncommon and all valuables should be locked in room safes if possible.

Health Information

Throughout the Eastern Caribbean, the most likely threat to a visitor's health is sunburn. It takes several weeks to become accustomed to the heat and humidity. Prolonged exposure to the sun, without protection, causes sunburn and may ultimately result in sun-damaged skin or even skin cancer. Sunscreens should be used for protection. In Barbados, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent the major health threat is dengue fever, transmitted by mosquito. Dengue cases are most often seen in the summer months. Persons should therefore protect themselves with insect repellent. There is also a growing number of HIV/AIDS cases reported. The Eastern Caribbean enjoys clean and safe drinking water. Only routine boosters for immunizations (i.e. tetanus, diphtheria, and oral polio vaccine) are required when traveling to this region. Barbados has the best medical facilities of all the islands in the region and most of the medical specialties have practitioners here.

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